

County Line

News from the Government Offices of

Lumpkin County, Georgia

Vol. 4, No. 3

November 2008



Timken Foundation Makes Donation, Grant Match Needed

The Timken Foundation, an independent foundation supporting projects in communities hosting Timken Co. manufacturing plants, has made a \$100,000 grant to Lumpkin County toward the purchase of a sorely needed new ambulance. Beyond that initial award, the foundation also has offered the county a second grant payment—up to \$50,000—contingent upon the community's matching that second phase of the grant dollar for dollar. The grant monies and matching funds together could raise a total of \$200,000, enough to fund the ambulance and a few key pieces of equipment on the EMS needs list. "Lumpkin County is deeply appreciative of this gift from The Timken Foundation," said EMS director Don Seabolt. "A new ambulance is not just something we'd like to have; it's a serious need. I'm confident the community will understand the importance of the grant match and will raise the local money needed." Watch for details about plans to raise the matching funds.



Progress Report:

Justice Center

Steady progress continues on the county's new Justice Center, with site work about 50 percent complete.

Heavy equipment is shaping the site to match the new grade, while the first level of pavement structure is going in, curb and gutter are being installed, and water, stormwater and sewer lines are being laid. According to plan, the project management team got cost estimates on the project about halfway through the design phase to see where they stood in relation to the budget. Sure enough, they were over budget, so they incorporated some cost-saving adjustments. Next, a second round of cost-estimating will confirm the project is in line. From there, the final set of construction documents—the blueprints and specifications that tell the construction crew exactly what to build and how—will be developed. The construction documents are expected to be ready by Thanksgiving. Clough, Harbour & Associates plans to present the future facility project to the Lumpkin County Board of Commissioners for a vote at the December board meeting.



Progress Report:

New Health Department Building

Lumpkin County's got a healthy start on its new Health

Department facility, scheduled to be completed in September of next year. The roughly 7,000 square foot building will be located off of Morrison Moore Parkway on Mechanicsville Road, adjacent to what eventually will be the county's new Justice Center. In fact, the two facilities will enjoy some cost savings resulting from economies of scale as their side-by-side constructions progress. For example, the soon-to-be-completed site work for both projects is being done at the same time by the same company for greater efficiency. Likewise, having engineering and architectural work on the building handled by the same firm that designed the Justice Center will save time and dollars and ensure the two buildings' designs complement each other. Health Department staff members have been heavily involved in the planning of the new facility to ensure the end result will meet the community's and the staff's needs. The new Lumpkin County Health

Shady Activity at the Park?

Last May, the Lumpkin County Parks and Recreation Department was on the fortunate receiving end of a grant from the Apachee Foundation, thanks to the work of the Yahoola Creek Trails Conservancy and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The county received 350 5-gallon-container-sized trees to be planted throughout the Yahoola Creek recreation complex. County staff members and the local volunteer community worked together to find and mark the best spots for the trees, dig the holes and plant the trees, which included flowering trees like dogwood, redbud and serviceberry, along with maples, mulberry, ginkgo and other species. A \$500 grant from the Georgia Mountains Master Gardeners helped offset the cost of drip irrigation bags installed around the base of the tree trunks to give the trees the best chance of surviving the hot, dry summer. Almost all of the trees were still looking healthy as their autumn leaves began to drop this fall. Parks and Recreation director Steve Proper thanks all those involved in the project, which will add beauty—and shade—to the park for generations to come.



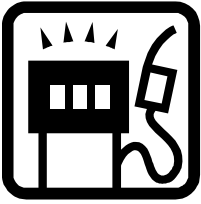
Department will be paid for with the help of a Community Development Block Grant through the Georgia Department of Community Affairs, as was the community's Adult Learning Center. The state will pay \$500,000 of the cost, while the county, for its match, puts up the property and \$512,000-plus in cash. Lumpkin County grants administrator Mark French says architectural and engineering plans should be available for presentation to the Lumpkin County Board of Commissioners by the end of the year, with the goal being actual construction start-up in January.



Trail of Tears 170th Anniversary Recognized

The Lumpkin County Board of Commissioners recognized 2008 as the 170th anniversary of the removal of the Cherokees from Georgia and the beginning of the "Trail of Tears" with the recent signing of a proclamation. The proclamation also recognized the dedication of many individuals and organizations to the remembrance of the tragic event and preservation of the historic sites that mark it. Approximately 17,000 Cherokees were removed from the Southeast. Thousands perished during, or as a result of, the removal. To learn more about the Trail of Tears and volunteer opportunities for preservation activities, visit www.gatrailoftears.org.

Lumpkin County . . . continued from reverse side



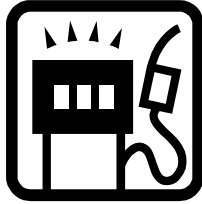
Gas Shortage I: How Prepared Were You?

If you're like most

people in Lumpkin County, you felt some personal impact from the recent gas shortage. Maybe you were just inconvenienced a bit. Or maybe you missed a day of work or even a doctor's appointment. Local emergency planners want you to ask yourself some questions that may encourage you to be better prepared next time.

- What if the gas shortage had hit the entire southeast or the nation? What if it had lasted longer?
- What if you had used precious gas to drive to the grocery store—both grocery stores—and found the shelves empty because food suppliers didn't have fuel to deliver their goods?
- What if you had been unable to get to the pharmacy to have your prescriptions refilled? ...or you got there to find the pharmacy closed?
- What if the monthly checks you count on didn't arrive because the postal service vehicles couldn't run?
- What if you had a medical emergency in your home and public safety officials could not respond?

It is a fact that people who are prepared for disasters fare better than those who are not. Assembling a disaster supply kit is a good place to start. Just imagine what you would need to have on hand if you were stuck at home for several weeks and one or more members of your household were ill. That's what you need to be gathering now. For details visit www.pandemicflu.gov or call the American Red Cross at 1-800-282-1722.



Gas Shortage II: Cooperation Appreciated

Since the county stopped

running its own gas station at the old county shop a few years ago and went to the state's FLEET gasoline purchasing system for government vehicles, drivers of FLEET authorized county vehicles have to pull up to the public pump to fill 'er up just like the rest of us. And generally, they don't mind a bit. But when it comes to emergency response and public safety vehicles and certain other vehicles that are necessary to reliable government operation, letting the needle hover near "Empty" and waiting in line

for hours simply were not options during the recent gas shortage. To make sure the government maintained the ability to provide critical services to the citizens and visitors, EMA Director Don Seabolt relied on the good will of local convenience store operators. And he says they came through in a big way, notifying him as soon as shipments of gas arrived so the county could coordinate the fueling up of its necessary engines. Still, getting the gas in a timely fashion invariably required "cutting" in front of waiting customers in the gas lines—a scary prospect in some communities, according to the nightly news reports. But Don was pleased to find the people waiting in Lumpkin County's gas lines to be courteous, cooperative and understanding.

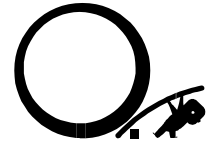
Dressing Up the 400 Corridor

You know what they say: You don't get a second chance to make a first impression. With hundreds of thousands of visitors driving northbound on Georgia 400 to enter Lumpkin County every month, there is a tremendous opportunity to shape that first—and lasting—impression. That's exactly why Lumpkin County has applied for and received two Transportation Enhancement grants from the Georgia Department of Transportation. Lumpkin County was awarded a \$40,000 grant in 2006 for "welcome" signage at the Lumpkin County line on Georgia 400 and landscaping from that point north to Highway 60. It didn't take long, recalls grants administrator Mark French, for project planners to realize more funds would be needed to really make a difference in the look of the corridor. The county applied for another DOT Transportation Enhancement grant to combine with the first one and was awarded an additional \$65,000 last spring. Between the total amount of the two grants and the county's required matching funds, that would produce a total of \$128,000, enough to get a good start on dressing up the 400 Corridor, especially at the intersections. Except for a couple of details, that is, one of which was a governor's order that no landscaping projects may be undertaken with state dollars during these drought conditions. So for now, the planning continues, as does the long wait for the rains.



County to Recover Some Emergency Costs

With the cost of providing services continuing to rise and county budgets continuing to shrink, many counties are looking for new



Working for You!

If you have a problem, question or concern involving your county government, answers and assistance are as close as your phone or computer. For contact information for county departments or commissioners, see Dept. and Contact Info., www.lumpkincounty.gov or call (706) 864-3742.

Board of Commissioners

Steve Gooch, Chairman
Dr. John Raber, District 1
Deborah Hutcheson, District 2
Clarence Stowers, District 3
Clarence Grindle, District 4

Stan Kelley
County Manager

Lumpkin County
99 Courthouse Hill
Dahlonega, Georgia 30533
(706) 864-3742
Fax (706) 864-4760
www.lumpkincounty.gov

ways to increase revenue without increasing taxes. Lumpkin County has recently joined several other North Georgia counties in adopting a system to recover some of the expense and defray some of the cost of fire protection calls and rescues. The county is contracting for third party billing of insurance companies, when applicable, for some costs associated with structure fires and emergency response, such as special tools, equipment and materials used in rescue efforts, hazardous materials abatement and environmental protection, as well as special training, licensing and certification. Billing insurance companies for such covered costs incurred by their insured "users" of these services may recoup up to \$20,000 of taxpayer dollars in the first year, estimates Lumpkin County Fire Chief Ed Eggert.